

REMARKS

This Response is being filed within three months of the Office Action outstanding, dated May 26, 2005. No new claims have been added. Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 10, 15, 18, 19 and 20 have been amended. Claim 8 has been amended to be in independent form. Applicants request the additional independent claim fee be withdrawn from Applicant's Deposit Account number 08-2025. Claims 2, 3 and 16 have been canceled. Claims 1, 4-15 and 17-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 8, 10, 15 and 20 are in independent form.

In the Office Action dated May 26, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-7, 10-12, 15 and 17-20 under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Taylor et al. (US 5,617,124, hereinafter "Taylor").

In the Office Action dated May 26, 2005, the Examiner states that Taylor teaches "a second roller mounted to the frame for rotation about a second axis oriented in the first direction to receive ink spit from the second printhead (figure 5, reference 102, 104, 106, 108; column 5, lines 47-58)." Referring to figure 5, Taylor shows an endless belt 110 that is supported on rollers 102-108, wherein a printhead is positioned above aperture 86 and roller 102 to spit ink onto belt 110. The ink is removed

from endless belt 110 at roller 106. Accordingly, none of rollers 102-108 receive ink; the ink is received on endless belt 110. Moreover, the printheads are only positioned above a single roller, namely, roller 102, when spitting such that rollers 104, 106 and 108 are not positioned to receive ink from any of the printheads.

By this response Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite first and second printheads and "a first roller mounted to the frame for rotation about an axis oriented in said first direction to receive ink spit only from said first printhead, and a second roller mounted to the frame for rotation about an axis oriented in said first direction to receive ink spit only from said second printhead.

Taylor does not teach or suggest first and second rollers that each receive ink spit "only from" an associated printhead. Claims 4, 5 and 6 have been amended to correspond to amended claim 1. Applicants believe amended claim 1 is not taught or suggested by Taylor and Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to allow claim 1 and corresponding dependent claims 4-7, under 35 USC 103(a).

By this response Applicants have amended claim 10 to recite "positioning at least some of said printheads over their own corresponding one of multiple rollers; and purging waste ink from said at least some of said

printheads onto their own corresponding one of multiple rollers." Taylor does not teach or suggest "purging waste ink from said at least some of said printheads onto their own corresponding one of multiple rollers." Applicants believe amended claim 10 is not taught or suggested by Taylor and Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to allow claim 10 and corresponding dependent claims 11-14, under 35 USC 103(a).

By this response Applicants have amended claim 15 to recite "first means for receiving ink spit only from said first printhead; [and] second means for receiving ink spit only from said second printhead." Taylor does not teach or suggest rollers that receive ink "spit only" from a corresponding printhead. Applicants believe amended claim 15 is not taught or suggested by Taylor and Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to allow claim 15 and corresponding dependent claims 17-19, under 35 USC 103(a).

By this response Applicants have amended claim 20 to recite first and second printheads and "a first roller mounted to the frame for rotation about an axis oriented in said first direction and located to receive ink spit only from said first printhead; and a second roller mounted to the frame for rotation about an axis oriented in said first direction and located to receive ink spit only from said

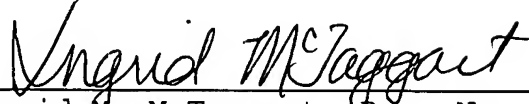
second printhead." Taylor does not teach or suggest rollers that receive "ink spit only from" a corresponding printhead. Applicants believe amended claim 20 is not taught or suggested by Taylor and Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to allow claim 20 under 35 USC 103(a).

In the Office Action dated May 26, 2005, the Examiner indicated that claim 8 was allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended claim 8 to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants believe claim 8 and corresponding dependent claim 9 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request the same.

Conclusion

All pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner should have any questions regarding this response, a call to Applicant's counsel, Ms. Ingrid M. McTaggart at (503) 230-7934, is respectfully requested. If the Examiner should have any other questions regarding the above referenced application, a call to Applicant's counsel Mr. Bob Wasson at (360) 212-2338, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 9th day of August, 2005.

